



Rep. John Shadegg

Press Release

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Bush Adopting Shadegg Idea to Help the Uninsured

President to Push Tax Credits for Health Insurance in State of the Union

Washington – President Bush is expected to announce during tonight’s State of the Union address that he supports using tax credits to improve health insurance coverage. U.S. Congressman John Shadegg initially proposed this idea in 1998, and has supported it ever since.

The current version of Congressman Shadegg’s plan, the Patients Health Care Choice Act (H.R. 3423), was introduced on Oct. 30, 2003. It would give consumers who do not have health coverage from an employer a refundable tax credit that they could use to purchase coverage.

“This is an issue of equity,” Shadegg said. “Employers get tax breaks for providing health insurance, and individuals should too.”

Shadegg added that the proposal would also save money by eliminating costly emergency room visits.

“Right now, the uninsured are treated for “free” in hospital emergency rooms, but that care isn’t really free, it comes out of taxpayers’ pockets,” Shadegg said. “Under my plan, which appears similar to the president’s proposal, these people would have health insurance rather than being a burden on local public hospitals.”